

For Six Month Period Ending 11/30/2010

(Insert date)

I - REGISTRANT

1. (a) Name of Registrant
Office of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic
in the U.S.A.

(b) Registration No.
5342

(c) Business Address(es) of Registrant
1334 G Street N.W., Suite 200
Washington, D.C. 20005

2. Has there been a change in the information previously furnished in connection with the following:

- (a) If an individual:
- | | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| (1) Residence address(es) | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (2) Citizenship | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (3) Occupation | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
- (b) If an organization:
- | | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| (1) Name | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| (2) Ownership or control | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| (3) Branch offices | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
- (c) Explain fully all changes, if any, indicated in items (a) and (b) above.

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2010 DEC 16 AM 11:48

IF THE REGISTRANT IS AN INDIVIDUAL, OMIT RESPONSE TO ITEMS 3, 4 AND 5(a).

3. If you have previously filed Exhibit C¹, state whether any changes therein have occurred during this 6 month reporting period.

Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, have you filed an amendment to the Exhibit C? Yes ☐ No ☐

If no, please attach the required amendment.

¹ The Exhibit C, for which no printed form is provided, consists of a true copy of the charter, articles of incorporation, association, and by laws of a registrant that is an organization. (A waiver of the requirement to file an Exhibit C may be obtained for good cause upon written application to the Assistant Attorney General, National Security Division, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC 20530.)

4. (a) Have any persons ceased acting as partners, officers, directors or similar officials of the registrant during this 6 month reporting period? Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, furnish the following information:

Name	Position	Date connection ended
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- (b) Have any persons become partners, officers, directors or similar officials during this 6 month reporting period?

Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, furnish the following information:

Name	Residence address	Citizenship	Position	Date assumed
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5. (a) Has any person named in item 4(b) rendered services directly in furtherance of the interests of any foreign principal?

Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, identify each such person and describe his service.

- (b) Have any employees or individuals, who have filed a short form registration statement, terminated their employment or connection with the registrant during this 6 month reporting period? Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, furnish the following information:

Name	Position or connection	Date terminated
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- (c) During this 6 month reporting period, has the registrant hired as employees or in any other capacity, any persons who rendered or will render services to the registrant directly in furtherance of the interests of any foreign principal(s) in other than a clerical or secretarial, or in a related or similar capacity? Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, furnish the following information:

Name	Residence address	Citizenship	Position	Date assumed
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6. Have short form registration statements been filed by all of the persons named in Items 5(a) and 5(c) of the supplemental statement?

Yes ☐ No ☐

If no, list names of persons who have not filed the required statement.

N/A

II - FOREIGN PRINCIPAL

7. Has your connection with any foreign principal ended during this 6 month reporting period?

Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, furnish the following information:

Name of foreign principal

Date of termination

8. Have you acquired any new foreign principal² during this 6 month reporting period?

Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, furnish the following information:

Name and address of foreign principal

Date acquired

9. In addition to those named in Items 7 and 8, if any, list foreign principals² whom you continued to represent during the 6 month reporting period.

Government of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic

10. EXHIBITS A AND B

(a) Have you filed for each of the newly acquired foreign principals in Item 8 the following:

Exhibit A ³	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Exhibit B ⁴	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

If no, please attach the required exhibit.

(b) Have there been any changes in the Exhibits A and B previously filed for any foreign principal whom you represented during the 6 month period? Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, have you filed an amendment to these exhibits? Yes ☐ No ☐

If no, please attach the required amendment.

² The term "foreign principal" includes, in addition to those defined in Section 1(b) of the Act, an individual organization any of whose activities are directly or indirectly supervised, directed, controlled, financed, or subsidized in whole or in major part by a foreign government, foreign political party, foreign organization or foreign individual. (See Rule 100(a) (9).) A registrant who represents more than one foreign principal is required to list in the statements he files under the Act only those principals for whom he is not entitled to claim exemption under Section 3 of the Act. (See Rule 208.)

³ The Exhibit A, which is filed on Form NSD-3 (Formerly CRM-157), sets forth the information required to be disclosed concerning each foreign principal.

⁴ The Exhibit B, which is filed on Form NSD-4 (Formerly CRM-155), sets forth the information concerning the agreement or understanding between the registrant and the foreign principal.

III - ACTIVITIES

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11. During this 6 month reporting period, have you engaged in any activities for or rendered any services to any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, and 9 of this statement? Yes ☒ No ☐

If yes, identify each such foreign principal and describe in full detail your activities and services:

Government of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic

see attached

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12. During this 6 month reporting period, have you on behalf of any foreign principal engaged in political activity⁵ as defined below? Yes ☒ No ☐

If yes, identify each such foreign principal and describe in full detail all such political activity, indicating, among other things, the relations, interests and policies sought to be influenced and the means employed to achieve this purpose. If the registrant arranged, sponsored or delivered speeches, lectures or radio and TV broadcasts, give details as to dates and places of delivery, names of speakers and subject matter.

Government of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic

see attached

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13. In addition to the above described activities, if any, have you engaged in activity on your own behalf which benefits any or all of your foreign principals? Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, describe fully.

⁵ The term "political activities" means any activity that the person engaging in believes will, or that the person intends to, in any way influence any agency or official of the Government of the United States or any section of the public within the United States with reference to formulating, adopting or changing the domestic or foreign policies of the United States or with reference to the political or public interests, policies, or relations of a government of a foreign country or a foreign political party.

IV - FINANCIAL INFORMATION

14. (a) RECEIPTS - MONIES

During this 6 month reporting period, have you received from any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, or 9 of this statement, or from any other source, for or in the interests of any such foreign principal, any contributions, income or money either as compensation or otherwise? Yes ☒ No ☐

If no, explain why.

see attached

If yes, set forth below in the required detail and separately for each foreign principal an account of such monies⁶.

Date	From whom	Purpose	Amount
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\$74,052.00

Total

(b) RECEIPTS - FUND RAISING CAMPAIGN

During this 6 month reporting period, have you received, as part of a fund raising campaign⁷, any money on behalf of any foreign principal named in items 7, 8, or 9 of this statement? Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, have you filed an Exhibit D⁸ to your registration? Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, indicate the date the Exhibit D was filed. Date _____

(c) RECEIPTS - THINGS OF VALUE

During this 6 month reporting period, have you received any thing of value⁹ other than money from any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, or 9 of this statement, or from any other source, for or in the interests of any such foreign principal?

Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, furnish the following information:

Name of foreign principal	Date received	Description of thing of value	Purpose
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^{6, 7} A registrant is required to file an Exhibit D if he collects or receives contributions, loans, money, or other things of value for a foreign principal, as part of a fund raising campaign. (See Rule 201(e).)

⁸ An Exhibit D, for which no printed form is provided, sets forth an account of money collected or received as a result of a fund raising campaign and transmitted for a foreign principal.

⁹ Things of value include but are not limited to gifts, interest free loans, expense free travel, favored stock purchases, exclusive rights, favored treatment over competitors, "kickbacks," and the like

15. (a) DISBURSEMENTS – MONIES

During this 6 month reporting period, have you

(1) disbursed or expended monies in connection with activity on behalf of any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, or 9 of this statement? Yes ☒ No ☐

(2) transmitted monies to any such foreign principal? Yes ☐ No ☒

If no, explain in full detail why there were no disbursements made on behalf of any foreign principal.

If yes, set forth below in the required detail and separately for each foreign principal an account of such monies, including monies transmitted, if any, to each foreign principal.

Date	To whom	Purpose	Amount
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see attached

			\$ 73,059.94
		Total	

(b) DISBURSEMENTS – THINGS OF VALUE

During this 6 month reporting period, have you disposed of anything of value¹⁰ other than money in furtherance of or in connection with activities on behalf of any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, or 9 of this statement?

Yes ☐No ☒

If yes, furnish the following information:

Date disposed	Name of person to whom given	On behalf of what foreign principal	Description of thing of value	Purpose
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(c) DISBURSEMENTS – POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS

During this 6 month reporting period, have you from your own funds and on your own behalf either directly or through any other person, made any contributions of money or other things of value¹¹ in connection with an election to any political office, or in connection with any primary election, convention, or caucus held to select candidates for political office?

Yes ☐No ☒

If yes, furnish the following information:

Date	Amount or thing of value	Name of political organization	Name of candidate
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^{10, 11} Things of value include but are not limited to gifts, interest free loans, expense free travel, favored stock purchases, exclusive rights, favored treatment over competitors, "kickbacks" and the like.

V - INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

16. During this 6 month reporting period, did you prepare, disseminate or cause to be disseminated any informational materials¹²?
 Yes ☒ No ☐

IF YES, RESPOND TO THE REMAINING ITEMS IN SECTION V.

17. Identify each such foreign principal.

Government of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic

18. During this 6 month reporting period, has any foreign principal established a budget or allocated a specified sum of money to finance your activities in preparing or disseminating informational materials? Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, identify each such foreign principal, specify amount, and indicate for what period of time.

19. During this 6 month reporting period, did your activities in preparing, disseminating or causing the dissemination of informational materials include the use of any of the following:

- | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Radio or TV broadcasts | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Magazine or newspaper articles | <input type="checkbox"/> Motion picture films | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Letters or telegrams |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advertising campaigns | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Press releases | <input type="checkbox"/> Pamphlets or other publications | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lectures or speeches |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Internet | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) _____ | | |

20. During this 6 month reporting period, did you disseminate or cause to be disseminated informational materials among any of the following groups:

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public officials | <input type="checkbox"/> Newspapers | <input type="checkbox"/> Libraries |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legislators | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Editors | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational institutions |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government agencies | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Civic groups or associations | <input type="checkbox"/> Nationality groups |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) _____ | Embassies, NGOs | |

21. What language was used in the informational materials:

- ☒ English ☐ Other (specify) _____

22. Did you file with the Registration Unit, U.S. Department of Justice a copy of each item of such informational materials disseminated or caused to be disseminated during this 6 month reporting period? Yes ☒ No ☐

23. Did you label each item of such informational materials with the statement required by Section 4(b) of the Act? Yes ☒ No ☐

12. The term informational materials includes any oral, visual, graphic, written, or pictorial information or matter of any kind, including that published by means of advertising, books, periodicals, newspapers, lectures, broadcasts, motion pictures, or any means or instrumentality of interstate or foreign commerce or otherwise. Informational materials disseminated by an agent of a foreign principal as part of an activity in itself exempt from registration, or an activity which by itself would not require registration, need not be filed pursuant to Section 4(b) of the Act.

VI – EXECUTION

In accordance with 28 U.S.C. §1746, the undersigned swear(s) or affirm(s) under penalty of perjury that he/she has (they have) read the information set forth in this registration statement and the attached exhibits and that he/she is (they are) familiar with the contents thereof and that such contents are in their entirety true and accurate to the best of his/her (their) knowledge and belief, except that the undersigned make(s) no representation as to the truth or accuracy of the information contained in the attached Short Form Registration Statement(s), if any, insofar as such information is not within his/her (their) personal knowledge.

(Date of signature)

(Type or print name under each signature¹³)

12 / 4 / 2010



Robert Avetisyan

Representative of the NKR in the USA

NSD/CES/REGISTRATION UNIT

2010 DEC 16 AM 11:49

¹³ This statement shall be signed by the individual agent, if the registrant is an individual, or by a majority of those partners, officers, directors or persons performing similar functions, if the registrant is an organization, except that the organization can, by power of attorney, authorize one or more individuals to execute this statement on its behalf.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FARA REGISTRATION UNIT
NATIONAL SECURITY DIVISION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20530

NOTICE

Please answer the following questions and return this sheet in triplicate with your Supplemental Statement:

1. Is your answer to Item 16 of Section V (Informational Materials – page 8 of Form NSD-2, formerly Form CRM-154 Supplemental Statement):

YES ✓ or NO _____

(If your answer to question 1 is "yes" do not answer question 2 of this form.)

2. Do you disseminate any material in connection with your registration:

YES _____ or NO _____

(If your answer to question 2 is "yes" please forward for our review copies of all material including: films, film catalogs, posters, brochures, press releases, etc. which you have disseminated during the past six months.)

Abecy
Signature

12/4/2010
Date

Robert Avetisyan
Please type or print name of
Signatory on the line above

NKR Representative in U.S.A.
Title

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2010 DEC 16 AM 11:49



U.S. Department of Justice

National Security Division

Washington, DC 20530

THIS FORM IS TO BE AN OFFICIAL ATTACHMENT TO YOUR CURRENT
SUPPLEMENTAL STATEMENT – PLEASE EXECUTE IN TRIPLICATE

SHORT-FORM REGISTRATION INFORMATION SHEET

SECTION A

The Department records list active short-form registration statements for the following persons filed on the date indicated by each name. If a person is not currently functioning in the same capacity directly on behalf of the foreign principal, please indicate the date of termination.

Short Form List for Registrant: Office of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic in the USA

Last Name	First Name	Registration Date	Termination Date
Avetisyan	Robert	12/29/2008	



U.S. Department of Justice

National Security Division

Washington, DC 20530

SECTION B

In addition to those persons listed in Section A, list below all current employees rendering services directly on behalf of the foreign principals(s) who have not filed short-form registration statements. (Do not list clerks, secretaries, typists or employees in a similar or related capacity). If there is some question as to whether an employee has an obligation to file a short-form, please address a letter to the Registration Unit describing the activities and connection with the foreign principal.

Name	Function	Date Hired
N/A		

Signature: Sherry Date: 12/4/2010

Title: NKR Representative in the USA

NSD/CES/REGISTRATION UNIT
2010 DEC 16 AM 11:49

Question 11:

During this 6-month period, have you engaged in any activity for or rendered any service to any foreign principal named in items 7, 8 and 9 of this statement? Yes

If yes, identify each such foreign principal and describe in full detail your activities and services:

Activities on behalf of the Government of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic:

Contacts

Date: 06/07/10
Contact: T. Birner, Assistant to the US Co-Chair of the OSCE Minsk Group
Purpose: sent a copy of the report on Parliamentary elections in Nagorno Karabakh (copy attached)
Contact manner: e-mail

Date: 07/01/10
Contact: Barack Obama, President of the USA; Joseph Biden Vice-President of the USA;
Purpose: to forward NKR President's July 4 congratulatory letter
Contact manner: fax/mail

Date: 07/01/10
Contact: Hillary Clinton, Tina Kaidanow, Philip Gordon, Robert Bradtke; U.S. Department of State
Purpose: to forward NKR Foreign Minister's July 4 congratulatory letter
Contact manner: fax/e-mail/mail

Date: 07/01/10
Contact: Robert Gates; U.S. Department of Defense
Purpose: to forward NKR Defense Minister's July 4 congratulatory letter
Contact manner: fax/mail

Date: 07/01/10
Contact: Rajiv Shah; USAID
Purpose: to forward NKR Prime Minister's July 4 congratulatory letter
Contact manner: fax/e-mail/mail

Date: 07/01/10
Contact: Members of the US Congress (list of recipients and sample letter attached)
Purpose: to forward NKR Parliament Speaker's July 4 congratulatory letters
Contact manner: fax/e-mail/mail

Date: 09/28/10
Contact: Robert Bradtke, the US Co-Chair of the OSCE Minsk Group
Purpose: discussion of recent developments in the region
Contact manner: meeting

Date: 09/28/10
Contact: Congressman Howard Berman;
Purpose: discussion of recent developments around the NK conflict
Contact manner: office meeting

Date: 10/05/10
Contact: Office of Congressman Schiff, Chief of Staff Timothy Bergreen
Purpose: discussion of recent developments around the NK conflict
Contact manner: office meeting

Newsletter

Date: 06/30/10, 07/30/10, 08/30/10, 10/30/10, 11/30/10
Subject: Developments in NKR and related to NKR
Availability: email

Press-releases

Date: 06/02/10
Subject: Artsakh Holds Parliamentary Elections
Availability: www.nkrusa.org, electronic distribution

Date: 06/19/10
Subject: Aliyev Orders Deadly Skirmish In Karabakh
Availability: www.nkrusa.org, electronic distribution

Date: 09/01/10
Subject: Azerbaijan Renews Karabakh Provocations
Availability: www.nkrusa.org, electronic distribution

Date: 09/02/10
Subject: Karabakh Celebrates Independence
Availability: www.nkrusa.org, electronic distribution

Date: 10/27/10
Subject: Armenian Soldier Killed By Azerbaijani Sniper
Availability: www.nkrusa.org, electronic distribution

Interviews, Articles, Media Alerts, Speeches

Date: 06/18/10
Media: 'Voice of America' Agency
Subject: Incident in the Nagorno Karabakh conflict zone
Notes: Interview by phone for further dissemination by TV and web

Date: 07/08/10
Venue: University of New York
Notes: Lecture for NYU students re NK conflict (copy attached)

Date: 08/03/10
Media: 'Panorama' Armenian News Company
Subject: Nagorno Karabakh conflict

Date: 09/07/10
Media: RFE/RL Agency
Subject: Nagorno Karabakh conflict

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2010 DEC 16 AM 11:48

Registrant's attendance at conferences and forums generally re Nagorno Karabakh and the region

Date: 06/24/10
Location: Center for Strategic and International Studies
Subject: US interests in the Caucasus; the role of regional countries

Date: 09/30/10
Location: Carnegie Endowment
Subject: Round table re NK conflict

Registrant's assistance in arranging meetings / planning itineraries for visiting officials

Dates: September 25 – October 1, 2010
Official: Mr. Ashot Ghoulian, Speaker of the Nagorno Karabakh Parliament
Itinerary: Meetings with representatives of local Armenian community,
Members of the U.S. Congress: Howard Berman, Jackie Speier,
Frank Pallone, Steven Rothman

Dates: November 17-26, 2010
Official: Bako Sahakyan, NKR President
Itinerary: By invitation of the Armenia Fund, Inc., meetings in Los Angeles, CA, with media, experts, government officials and representatives of the Armenian-American community. Discussed issues related to the Nagorno Karabakh peace process and assistance to Nagorno Karabakh. In Glendale, California, participation in a televised fundraising for humanitarian and development projects in Nagorno Karabakh. On November 19, President Sahakyan visited Los Angeles City Council, met with council members, head of the Council's president Eric Garcetti. On November 23, President Sahakyan met with Los Angeles mayor Antonio Villaraigosa. Issues re developing cooperation were discussed.

Question 12:

During this 6-month reporting period, have you on behalf of any foreign principal engaged in political activity as defined below? Yes

Political activities on behalf of the Government of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic:

Contacts

Date: 06/07/10
Contact: T. Birner, Assistant to the US Co-Chair of the OSCE Minsk Group
Purpose: sent a copy of the report on Parliamentary elections in Nagorno Karabakh (copy attached)
Contact manner: e-mail

Date: 07/01/10
Contact: Barack Obama, President of the USA; Joseph Biden Vice-President of the USA;
Purpose: to forward NKR President's July 4 congratulatory letter
Contact manner: fax/mail

Date: 07/01/10
Contact: Hillary Clinton, Tina Kaidanow, Philip Gordon, Robert Bradtke; U.S. Department of State
Purpose: to forward NKR Foreign Minister's July 4 congratulatory letter
Contact manner: fax/e-mail/mail

Date: 07/01/10
Contact: Robert Gates; U.S. Department of Defense
Purpose: to forward NKR Defense Minister's July 4 congratulatory letter
Contact manner: fax/mail

Date: 07/01/10
Contact: Rajiv Shah; USAID
Purpose: to forward NKR Prime Minister's July 4 congratulatory letter
Contact manner: fax/e-mail/mail

Date: 07/01/10
Contact: Members of the US Congress (list of recipients and sample letter attached)
Purpose: to forward NKR Parliament Speaker's July 4 congratulatory letters
Contact manner: fax/e-mail/mail

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Contact: Robert Bradtke, the US Co-Chair of the OSCE Minsk Group
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Contact: Congressman Howard Berman;
Purpose: discussion of recent developments around the NK conflict
Contact manner: office meeting

Date: 10/05/10

Contact: Office of Congressman Schiff, Chief of Staff Timothy Bergreen
Purpose: discussion of recent developments around the NK conflict
Contact manner: office meeting

Newsletter

Date: 06/30/10, 07/30/10, 08/30/10, 10/30/10, 11/30/10
Subject: Developments in NKR and related to NKR
Availability: email

Press-releases

Date: 06/02/10
Subject: Artsakh Holds Parliamentary Elections
Availability: www.nkrusa.org, electronic distribution

Date: 06/19/10
Subject: Aliyev Orders Deadly Skirmish In Karabakh
Availability: www.nkrusa.org, electronic distribution

Date: 09/01/10
Subject: Azerbaijan Renews Karabakh Provocations
Availability: www.nkrusa.org, electronic distribution

Date: 09/02/10
Subject: Karabakh Celebrates Independence
Availability: www.nkrusa.org, electronic distribution

Date: 10/27/10
Subject: Armenian Soldier Killed By Azerbaijani Sniper
Availability: www.nkrusa.org, electronic distribution

Interviews, Articles, Media Alerts, Speeches

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Dates: November 17-26, 2010
Official: Bako Sahakyan, NKR President
Itinerary: By invitation of the Armenia Fund, Inc., meetings in Los Angeles, CA, with media, experts, government officials and representatives of the Armenian-American community. Discussed issues related to the Nagorno Karabakh peace process and assistance to Nagorno Karabakh. In Glendale, California, participation in a televised fundraising for humanitarian and development projects in Nagorno Karabakh. On November 19, President Sahakyan visited Los Angeles City Council, met with council members, head of the Council's president Eric Garcetti. On November 23, President Sahakyan met with Los Angeles mayor Antonio Villaraigosa. Issues re developing cooperation were discussed.

Question 14 (a):

During this 6 month reporting period, have you received from any foreign principal named in items 7, 8 and 9 of this statement, or from any other source, for or in the interest of any such principal, any contributions, income or money either as compensation or otherwise? Yes

If yes, set forth in the required detail and separately for each foreign principal an account of such monies.

The amount listed below is the total of such financial support and contributions to the NKR Office from all sources for the reporting period of 6/1/2010 - 11/30/2010

Dates	Name	Address line 1	Address line 2	Amount
6/1/10 - 11/30/10	NKR Government	28 Azatamartikneri St.	Stepanakert, NKR, Armenia	\$74,052.00
	Total			\$74,052.00

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2010 DEC 16 AM 11:48

Question 15 (a):

During this 6 month reporting period, have you

(1) disbursed or expended monies in connection with activity on behalf of any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, and 9 of this statement? Yes

If yes, set forth below in the required detail and separately for each foreign principal of such monies, including transmitted, if any, to each foreign principal.

Foreign Principal: The Government of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic

The following is a breakdown of those expenses incurred by the NKR Office in the USA during the reporting period.

NN	Purpose	Amount
1	Entertainment/meals: No U.S. officials or media representatives were guests	\$2,150.00
3	Health Insurance	\$8,920.00
4	Living expenses	\$26,168.00
5	Office Rent	\$4,853.55
6	Car rent & payments	\$3,240.06
7	Office Supplies and Expenses	\$4,780.00
8	Parking	\$1,500.00
9	Postage/Courier	\$724.75
10	Rent Housing Expats	\$14,370.00
11	Telephone	\$3,317.00
12	Travel: No U.S. officials or media representatives were quests	\$2,770.00
13	Website/Email	\$266.58
	Total operating expenses and other disbursements:	\$73,059.94

Report of the Independent American Monitoring Delegation
Led By
The Public International Law & Policy Group
To The June 19, 2005 Nagorno Karabakh Parliamentary Elections

Summary

The Nagorno Karabakh parliamentary elections held on June 19, 2005 were conducted freely and transparently. Electoral law changes introduced by the Central Election Commission opened up the democratic space for political parties. Competition in that arena adhered to generally accepted international electoral standards. In their totality, the evolution of the voting system toward a more democratic process, the nature of the electoral campaign, and the conduct of voters and officials on election day are strong signs that Nagorno Karabakh has made significant progress toward establishing a functioning and we hope sustainable democracy.

We salute the voters, candidates and in particular the Central Election Commission for demonstrating a serious commitment toward establishing a democratic system in Nagorno Karabakh and working within its rules and procedures before and during the election. The election environment was calm and we have not received any reports of general intimidation. Voters appeared to have had ready access to the programs and views of the many legislative candidates and the vast majority of them had opportunities to hear directly from candidates seeking political office in the various constituencies.

The new electoral law effectively broadened the participation of new political parties, and represents a major step forward for Karabakh democracy. Additionally, the change in the electoral law stipulating that military forces below the officer rank would vote for political parties rather than individual candidates competing in the designated constituencies marked an improvement over the previous electoral system and removed one significant possible source of electoral abuse, thereby reflecting progress made by the Nagorno Karabakh authorities in exercising civilian control over the military. This in itself was a positive development worthy of mention.

The six-person delegation met with representatives of six major political parties with candidates competing in the elections, some parliamentary candidates, the Central Election Commission chairman and his colleagues, journalists and representatives from local nongovernmental organizations. The delegation visited 37 polling sites and the Central Election Commission on polling day and found no significant irregularities in the sites that were visited.

Election Environment

Elections are both a technical and political process. The technical aspect incorporates the election administration, logistical preparation, the necessary electoral materials, and voter education programming used for registration and voting. The political component incorporates issues surrounding the constraints on competition, the degree of voter involvement and the degree of political party inclusiveness.

Nagorno Karabakh is a small tight-knit community where people know each other or about each other. They view themselves as having already achieved *de facto* independence. Their overriding goal is to secure their independence through international recognition. This contributes to a strong feeling of national unity and the perceived need to project this unity to outsiders, which sometimes tend to mute criticism and submerge other social and economic issues. We detected evidence that this was the case in these parliamentary elections. The campaign appeared to have been spirited, with a variety of issues and views placed before the public and no shortage of criticism of the authorities and other candidates. This appears to reflect a sense among the people of Nagorno Karabakh that the foundations for their democracy have been laid successfully, and that concerns other than national survival can come to the fore and be openly debated. There was expressed pride among citizens of Karabakh that their nascent democratic achievements surpassed the level of democracy prevailing in neighboring countries.

The pre-election campaign atmosphere was reported to be calm. None of the candidates interviewed expressed any serious concern regarding incidents or threats that could prevent voters from expressing their preferences at the ballot box. The delegation did not detect any sense of fear, intimidation or hostilities directed towards candidates or potential voters. There were no reports of enhanced security measures that affected voter turnout. In fact, there was a conspicuous absence of campaign materials, posters or flyers that are usually prevalent in campaigns. Some individuals the delegation met with expressed the view that the 30-day campaign period was too long. However, in view of the importance of ensuring that democracy establishes firm roots, others do not believe that this period is too long.

CEC rules were in effect for allocating time and space in the Nagorno Karabakh media. All parties had one hour of free television time and one page of free space in the state newspaper, and were allowed to purchase time and space on television and in newspapers up to the same limit. No party or candidate we spoke with had complaints about access to the media.

Parties the delegation spoke with praised the fairness of media rules, equal time, and access. They had no complaints about misuse of the media by the government. The advantages of incumbency are a burden that all democracies carry and find difficult to resolve. Nagorno Karabakh is no exception. Some parties felt that campaign spending limits determined by the CEC were ample and widely observed, while others questioned the adherence of other parties to campaign finance laws. In most polling places, voters had the opportunity to participate in town meetings with district candidates.

Election Law and Procedures

The 2005 election is Nagorno Karabakh's fourth parliamentary election since 1991, with previous legislative polling also held in 1995 and 2000. About 100 international observers from Russia, Iran, the United Kingdom, Greece, Armenia, Czech Republic, the United States, and other nations monitored this parliamentary election. The Central Election Commission chairman informed us that around a dozen domestic observers were also accredited.

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The 2005 parliamentary elections were the first held under a new electoral code proposed by the Central Election Commission and passed by the National Assembly that introduced numerous—and we believe improved—modifications to the procedures in force during previous presidential, parliamentary and local elections.

First, it consolidated the differing procedures governing the three types of elections into one law that applies equally to presidential, legislative and local elections.

Second, it eased the criteria for political parties to nominate candidates and created a proportional voting system for electing one-third of the 33 members of the National Assembly. This stimulated the formation of several new parties by citizens willing to test the efficacy of the new rules controlling entry into the legislative arena.

Third, it reorganized the structure of the Central Election Commission itself in all levels at which it operates. While the CEC remains the final authority in the conduct of elections, its new structure has encouraged more checks and balances to give parties and citizens a greater opportunity to deter and prevent abuse.

Fourth, the CEC has stopped allowing people temporarily living somewhere to register to vote, and instead only permits residents to register. The list of registered voters was to be made available at voting stations prior to the election.

Finally, the CEC has tempered the potential capacity of the military to distort the election results in any particular district by the coincidence of bases being located there, by requiring that members of the military below the officer rank at these bases vote only for political party candidates, rather than single-member-constituency candidates. This enabled them to vote at the station nearest the military unit they are serving at while thereby preventing their votes from impacting on the electoral outcome of any constituencies, but instead being counted in the proportional representation component of the balloting.

The CEC itself is now composed of seven members. Three are appointed by the President and each party with a faction in the present parliament has the right to appoint two more. This has opened up the CEC's structure considerably in favor of Karabakh's political parties, and will expand further if additional factions exist in future parliaments. The CEC has also simplified the structure of its subordinate units throughout Nagorno Karabakh. The previous system of regional and town committees has been replaced by district and local election commissions in each of the 22 legislative districts and at polling stations.

The nearly 1,900 electoral commissioners who are responsible for managing elections at the local level follow the same structure as the Central Election Commission. As with the Central Election Commission, this represents an opening for parties at the local level.

Candidates were nominated by political party tickets and in constituencies from April 5-10. For the 22 constituency seats, 127 candidates were nominated. Of these, 49 were nominated by political parties and 57 by non-party groups. In Stepanakert, 79 candidates were nominated in its eight constituencies. The number of candidates in each district ranged from two to a high of 14. The size of party lists ranged from

three to 25 positions. This in our view reflects in part the leveling of the electoral playing field after the adoption of the new election code.

Of the nine political parties in Nagorno Karabakh, eight nominated candidates. Six of the parties ran separate party tickets, and two parties established a common party ticket for the campaign. Women constituted 8.5 percent of nominated candidates.

Between April 10 and May 5, the CEC and district committees reviewed the documents of nominees. The final stage of the registration process for candidates took place May 10-15. On May 17, the electoral campaign officially commenced.

Polling Day

The delegation visited 32 polling sites in all 22 electoral districts and found the election to be commendably organized in a technical sense. Members of the delegation heard no serious complaints from citizens, candidates, or officials about the validity of the voting procedures or results. The general climate at the polling places seemed to be positive and businesslike. There was no evidence of intimidation or any climate of fear or uncertainty on the part of voters. Police were present at most of the polling places visited by the delegation but they generally kept to their proper place in front of the polling stations. There was no evidence that police were having any intimidating effect or engaging in improper actions.

The election commissions at the polling places performed well in organizing and conducting the vote. Election commissioners were generally experienced and very well prepared; almost all were familiar with the new rules and procedures. All necessary voting materials, including voter registration lists, supplies, and blank ballots arrived in due time and in sufficient quantities. In most, if not all, polling places visited by the delegation election rules were prominently displayed. Information about the candidates was also displayed outside most polling places.

The voter registration lists appeared to be generally accurate and in all cases were prominently posted at the polling sites. We noted few instances of voters raising concerns about their names on the list. A procedure was in place for resolving these concerns, which appeared to be working in urban areas. In the areas where refugees were resettled, the delegation encountered problems with an accurate voter registration list. Because of this, some voters in remote locations were excluded.

The country's 89,576 registered voters are divided into 22 single member electoral districts and 275 polling stations, and one in Yerevan. The delegation was able to observe only a small number of vote counts. In those instances, the count appeared to be proceeding in accordance with the rules. The delegation is unaware of any complaints put forward by candidates or citizens about the count. Candidate observers were allowed to be present for the count but as with the vote itself such observers could not cover more than a small fraction of the counts.

Observers were informed of a number of minor complaints. None of these undermined the fairness of the vote in a significant way. There appeared to be a lack of voter education on both the substance of the party platforms, as well as confusion over proportional and district level balloting. There was also confusion over the

manner in which the ballot was to be marked. Larger polling stations in major Karabakh towns were understaffed.

Suggestions for improving the efficiency of polling day include: Enhanced voter education on party platforms and electoral structure, as well as better outreach to explain the balloting process. Additionally, we recommend that the CEC identify specific polling stations where staffing needs to be increased, and effect rules and regulations to allow for increased support. Publishing lists of registered voters well in advance of polling would allow for public scrutiny and reduce errors.

Conclusion

Nagorno Karabakh has made demonstrable progress in building democracy and its authorities have made a serious effort to conduct the 2005 polls by democratic means. The new electoral code in particular seemed to have helped unlock the political energies of the Karabakh people while at the same time channeling these energies in democratic directions by facilitating the establishment of political parties. Districts appear to be established on the basis of technical considerations rather than political considerations. While there remains room for further improvement, there is reason too for optimism that the people of Nagorno Karabakh can consolidate the democratic progress witnessed in the June 19 elections.

The Delegation

The delegation is composed of members with a balance of experience in international election monitoring, democracy building and regional expertise. James Hooper, who led the American Independent Monitoring Delegation to the 2002 presidential elections in Nagorno Karabakh, served with the US Department of State for more than 25 years, where he followed elections in the Balkans and elsewhere and has subsequently held senior positions in several nongovernmental organizations. Aleyda Kasten served at Georgetown University for 20 years as deputy director of the National Security Studies Program, administrator/researcher of the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, and executive director of the Albert B. Sabin Vaccine Institute. Vladimir Matic, professor of international relations at Clemson University and consultant to research institutes, observed several elections including the 2002 presidential election with the American Independent Monitoring Delegation and was an assistant foreign minister in the former Yugoslavia. Louis Sell, a career diplomat and currently adjunct professor at the University of Maine at Farmington, previously served in the Soviet Union and the former Yugoslavia and participated in the 2002 presidential election with the American Independent Monitoring Delegation. William Spencer, a career US diplomat for 14 years, has organized and supported electoral processes in the Balkans and more recently worked closely on human rights and democratization issues in Afghanistan. Paul Williams, executive director and founder of the Public International Law & Policy Group, has visited Nagorno Karabakh and is a professor at American University's School of International Service and Washington College of Law.

Discussions Held:

Arkady Ghoukasian, President of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic (NKR)

David Babayan, Special Advisor to the NKR President
 Sergei Nasibian, Chairman of the Central Election Commission
 Semyon Afiyan, Member of the Central Election Commission
 Hamest Suleimanian, Member of the Central Election Commission
 Armen Melikian, Foreign Minister of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic
 Karen Ohanjanian, Head of Social Justice Party
 Deputy Head of Social Justice Party
 Murad Petrosian, Head of Moral Revival Party
 Eduard Aghabekian, Mayor of Stepanakert and Head of Movement 88
 Vitaliy Balasanyan, Head of Dashnak Party of NKR
 Zhirair Shahidjanian, Secretary of Central Committee of Dashnak Party
 Gegam Baghdasaryan, Editor of Demo
 Ashot Ghouljian, Head of Democratic Party of Artsakh
 Tigran Gabrielian, Young Democrats Co-Chairman
 Karine Ohanian, Reporter at Demo
 Irina Gregorian, Chairwoman, National Diplomacy Institute
 Arpat Avenesian, Head of the "Free Fatherland" Party
 Judge Seiran Amiryan, Judge of the Court of First Instance (responsible for election
 day voter registration issues)

Discussions were also held with delegates from the Russian, Armenian, American and Iranian observer delegations.

This report covers election-related activities that occurred prior to the departure of the delegation from Nagorno Karabakh mid-day on June 20.

Stepanakert, Nagorno Karabakh
 June 20, 2005



President of the Republic of Nagorno-Karabakh

17 June 2010

17-06/128

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States of America
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of the people and the Government of the Nagorno Karabagh Republic, Artsakh, I am writing to congratulate you and the American people on the United States' Independence Day.

Throughout its history, the United States has proudly championed universal values of freedom and democracy. The unshakeable American spirit has motivated many nations, including Artsakh, to struggle selflessly for achieving the long-cherished liberty and prosperity.

We successfully defended our right to live in freedom, and we appreciate the tireless efforts of your Administration to reach final peace and strengthen stability in the South Caucasus by bringing about a fair and viable solution to the Azerbaijani-Karabagh conflict. The people of Artsakh are also grateful to the American people for the ongoing economic assistance, which has contributed to rebuilding our lives and restoring Artsakh's war-devastated social infrastructure.

As we strengthen our democracy – once again evidenced by the recent parliamentary elections, which international observers assessed as free and fair - we remain committed to building a country based on rule of law and protection of human rights, at peace with its neighbors.

On July 4th the American nation celebrates the spirit of freedom and independence. I am confident that continued and deepened cooperation between the United States and Artsakh will contribute to our shared goals of peace, stability and economic prosperity in the South Caucasus.

Sincerely,

Bako Sahakyan



President of the Republic of Nagorno-Karabakh

17 June 2010

№ 1-06/129

**The Honorable Joseph R. Biden
Vice President of the United States of America
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500**

Dear Mr. Vice President:

On behalf of the people and the Government of the Nagorno Karabagh Republic, Artsakh, I am writing to congratulate you and the American people on the United States' Independence Day.

Throughout its history, the United States has proudly championed universal values of freedom and democracy. The unshakeable American spirit has motivated many nations, including Artsakh, to struggle selflessly for achieving the long-cherished liberty and prosperity.

We successfully defended our right to live, and we appreciate the tireless efforts of the United States to reach final peace and strengthen stability in the South Caucasus by bringing about a fair and workable solution to the Azerbaijani-Karabagh conflict. The people of Artsakh are also grateful to the American nation for the ongoing humanitarian assistance, which has contributed to rebuilding our lives and restoring Artsakh's war-devastated social infrastructure.

As we strengthen our democracy, as evidenced by the recent parliamentary elections in our republic, we remain determined to promote our shared vision of a stable and democratic Caucasus.

On July 4th the American nation celebrates the spirit of freedom and independence. I am confident that the universal values and trustful cooperation between the United States and Nagorno Karabagh will lead to mutually beneficial relations between our nations.

Sincerely,


Bako Sahakyan



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МИНИСТР ИНОСТРАННЫХ ДЕЛ НАГОРНО - КАРАБАХСКОЙ РЕСПУБЛИКИ

FOREIGN MINISTER OF THE NAGORNO KARABAKH REPUBLIC

Ստեփանակերտ
Степанакерт
Stepanakert

"01" July 2010p.

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Dr. Philip H. GORDON
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Dr. Gordon:

On behalf of the people and the Government of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic, Artsakh, I am writing to congratulate you and the American people on the United States' Independence Day.

Throughout its history, the United States has proudly championed universal values of freedom and democracy. The unshakeable American spirit has motivated many nations, including Artsakh, to struggle selflessly for achieving the long-cherished liberty and prosperity.

We successfully defended our right to live in freedom, and we appreciate the tireless efforts of your Administration to reach final peace and strengthen stability in the South Caucasus by bringing about a fair and viable solution to the Azerbaijani-Karabakh conflict. The people of Artsakh are also grateful to the American people for the ongoing economic assistance, which has helped to rebuild our lives and restore Artsakh's war-devastated social infrastructure.

As we strengthen our democracy, as evidenced by the recent parliamentary elections in our republic, we remain determined to promote our shared vision of a stable and democratic South Caucasus.

On July 4th the American nation celebrates the spirit of freedom and independence. I am confident that continued and deepened cooperation between the United States and Artsakh will contribute to our shared goals of peace, stability and economic prosperity in the South Caucasus.

Sincerely,

Georgy PETROSSYAN



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МИНИСТР ИНОСТРАННЫХ ДЕЛ НАГОРНО - КАРАБАХСКОЙ РЕСПУБЛИКИ

FOREIGN MINISTER OF THE NAGORNO KARABAKH REPUBLIC

Ստեփանակերտ
Степанакерт
Stepanakert

« 01 » July 2010թ.
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Ambassador Robert BRADTKE
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Ambassador Bradtke:

On behalf of the people and the Government of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic, Artsakh, I am writing to congratulate you and the American people on the United States' Independence Day.

Throughout its history, the United States has proudly championed universal values of freedom and democracy. The unshakeable American spirit has motivated many nations, including Artsakh, to struggle selflessly for achieving the long-cherished liberty and prosperity.

We successfully defended our right to live in freedom, and we appreciate the tireless efforts of your Administration to reach final peace and strengthen stability in the South Caucasus by bringing about a fair and viable solution to the Azerbaijani-Karabakh conflict. The people of Artsakh are also grateful to the American people for the ongoing economic assistance, which has helped to rebuild our lives and restore Artsakh's war-devastated social infrastructure.

As we strengthen our democracy, as evidenced by the recent parliamentary elections in our republic, we remain determined to promote our shared vision of a stable and democratic South Caucasus.

On July 4th the American nation celebrates the spirit of freedom and independence. I am confident that continued and deepened cooperation between the United States and Artsakh will contribute to our shared goals of peace, stability and economic prosperity in the South Caucasus.

Sincerely,

Georgy PETROSSYAN



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МИНИСТР ИНОСТРАННЫХ ДЕЛ НАГОРНО - КАРАБАХСКОЙ РЕСПУБЛИКИ

FOREIGN MINISTER OF THE NAGORNO KARABAKH REPUBLIC

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Степанакерт
Stepanakert

«01» July 20 1991
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Ms. Tina S. KAIDANOW
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Ms. Kaidanow:

On behalf of the people and the Government of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic, Artsakh, I am writing to congratulate you and the American people on the United States' Independence Day.

Throughout its history, the United States has proudly championed universal values of freedom and democracy. The unshakeable American spirit has motivated many nations, including Artsakh, to struggle selflessly for achieving the long-cherished liberty and prosperity.

We successfully defended our right to live in freedom, and we appreciate the tireless efforts of your Administration to reach final peace and strengthen stability in the South Caucasus by bringing about a fair and viable solution to the Azerbaijani-Karabakh conflict. The people of Artsakh are also grateful to the American people for the ongoing economic assistance, which has helped to rebuild our lives and restore Artsakh's war-devastated social infrastructure.

As we strengthen our democracy, as evidenced by the recent parliamentary elections in our republic, we remain determined to promote our shared vision of a stable and democratic South Caucasus.

On July 4th the American nation celebrates the spirit of freedom and independence. I am confident that continued and deepened cooperation between the United States and Artsakh will contribute to our shared goals of peace, stability and economic prosperity in the South Caucasus.

Sincerely,

Georgy PETROSSYAN



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МИНИСТР ИНОСТРАННЫХ ДЕЛ НАГОРНО - КАРАБАХСКОЙ РЕСПУБЛИКИ

FOREIGN MINISTER OF THE NAGORNO KARABAKH REPUBLIC

Ստեփանակերտ
Степанакерт
Stepanakert

« 01 » July 2010 р.
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The Honorable Hillary Rodham CLINTON
U.S. Department of State
2201 C St NW 7th Floor
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Clinton:

On behalf of the people and the Government of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic, Artsakh, I am writing to congratulate you and the American people on the United States' Independence Day.

Throughout its history, the United States has proudly championed universal values of freedom and democracy. The unshakeable American spirit has motivated many nations, including Artsakh, to struggle selflessly for achieving the long-cherished liberty and prosperity.

We successfully defended our right to live in freedom, and we appreciate the tireless efforts of your Administration to reach final peace and strengthen stability in the South Caucasus by bringing about a fair and viable solution to the Azerbaijani-Karabakh conflict. The people of Artsakh are also grateful to the American people for the ongoing economic assistance, which has helped to rebuild our lives and restore Artsakh's war-devastated social infrastructure.

As we strengthen our democracy, as evidenced by the recent parliamentary elections in our republic, we remain determined to promote our shared vision of a stable and democratic South Caucasus.

On July 4th the American nation celebrates the spirit of freedom and independence. I am confident that continued and deepened cooperation between the United States and Artsakh will contribute to our shared goals of peace, stability and economic prosperity in the South Caucasus.

Sincerely,

Georgy PETROSSYAN

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REPUBLIC OF NAGORNO-
KARABAKH
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE



НАГОРНО-КАРАБАХСКАЯ
РЕСПУБЛИКА
МИНИСТЕРСТВО ОБОРОНЫ

✉ թ. Ստեփանակերտ, փող. Տիգրան Մեծի 13ա ☎ (+37447) 94-46-48 ✉ г.Степанакерт, ул. Тиграна Меца 13а
(+37410) 28-65-45

N _____

« 01 » July 2010р.

Mr. Robert GATES
U.S. Department of Defense
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1000

Dear Secretary Gates:

On behalf of the people and the Government of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic, Artsakh, I am writing to congratulate you and the American people on the United States' Independence Day.

Throughout its history, the United States has proudly championed universal values of freedom and democracy. The unshakeable American spirit and patriotism has motivated many nations, including Artsakh, to struggle selflessly for achieving the long-cherished liberty.

We successfully defended our right to live in freedom, and we appreciate the tireless efforts of the United States to reach final peace and strengthen stability in the South Caucasus by bringing about a fair and workable solution to the Azerbaijani-Karabakh conflict.

As we strengthen our security and democracy, we remain determined to promote our shared vision of a stable and prosperous South Caucasus.

On July 4th the American nation celebrates the spirit of freedom and independence. I am confident that continued and deepened cooperation between the United States and Artsakh will contribute to our shared goals of peace, stability and economic prosperity in the South Caucasus.

Sincerely

Movses HAKOPYAN

ПРАВИТЕЛЬСТВО
НАГОРНО-КАРАБАХСКОЙ
РЕСПУБЛИКИ



THE GOVERNMENT
OF THE REPUBLIC
OF NAGORNO-KARABAKH

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г. Степанакерт

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c. Stepanakert

N 9-74-51

"24" June 2010 p.

Dr. Rajiv Shah
USAID
Ronald Reagan Building, 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20523

Dear Dr. Shah:

On behalf of the people and the Government of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic, Artsakh, I am writing to congratulate you and the American people on the United States' Independence Day.

Throughout its history, the United States has proudly championed universal values of freedom and democracy. The unshakeable American spirit has motivated many nations, including Artsakh, to struggle selflessly for achieving the long-cherished liberty and prosperity.

We successfully defended our right to live in freedom, and we appreciate the tireless efforts of your Administration to reach final peace and strengthen stability in the South Caucasus by bringing about a fair and viable solution to the Azerbaijani-Karabakh conflict. The people of Artsakh are also grateful to the American people for the ongoing economic assistance, which has helped to rebuild our lives and restore Artsakh's war-devastated social infrastructure.

As we strengthen our democracy, we remain determined to continue sustainable development and promote our shared vision of a democratic and prosperous South Caucasus.

On July 4th the American nation celebrates the spirit of freedom and independence. I am confident that continued and deepened cooperation between the United States and Artsakh will contribute to our shared goals of peace, stability and economic prosperity in the South Caucasus.

Sincerely,

Ara HARUTYUNYAN

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2010 DEC 16 AM 11:49



CHAIRMAN OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAGORNO - KARABAKH

2, February 20 st., Stepanakert, NKR

Tel: 941287, 943221, 9286674

№ 02-116

« 30 » June 2010 p.

The Honorable Adam SCHIFF
United States House of Representatives
2447 RHOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Schiff:

On behalf of the people and the Government of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic, Artsakh, I am writing to congratulate you and the American people on the United States' Independence Day.

Throughout its history, the United States has proudly championed universal values of freedom and democracy. The unshakeable American spirit has motivated many nations, including Artsakh, to struggle selflessly for achieving the long-cherished liberty and prosperity.

We successfully defended our right to live in freedom, and we appreciate the tireless efforts of the United States, our steadfast friends and supporters in the U.S. Congress to reach final peace and strengthen stability in the South Caucasus by bringing about a fair and workable solution to the Azerbaijani-Karabakh conflict. Further, the people of Artsakh are grateful to the American nation for the ongoing economic assistance, which is helping us to rebuild our lives and restore Artsakh's war-devastated infrastructure.

As we strengthen our democracy, as evidenced by the recent parliamentary elections in our republic, we remain determined to promote our shared vision of a stable and democratic South Caucasus.

On July 4th the American nation celebrates the spirit of freedom and independence. I am confident that continued and deepened cooperation between the United States and Artsakh will contribute to our shared goals of peace, stability and economic prosperity in the South Caucasus.

Sincerely,

Ashot GHULYAN

**List of Members of the US Congress
who received July 4 congratulatory letters
from Chairman of the NKR National Assembly**

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
The Honorable Harry Reid
The Honorable Jack Reed
The Honorable Sam Brownback
The Honorable Barbara Boxer
The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
The Honorable Richard J Durbin
The Honorable John Ensign
The Honorable John F. Kerry
The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy
The Honorable Carl Levin
The Honorable Robert Menendez
The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
The Honorable Richard G. Lugar
The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
The Honorable David Dreier
The Honorable Steny Hoyer
The Honorable Roy Blunt
The Honorable Frank Pallone
The Honorable Lloyd Doggett
The Honorable George Radanovich
The Honorable Devin Nunes
The Honorable Barney Frank
The Honorable Maurice Hinchey
The Honorable Adam Schiff
The Honorable John Boehner
The Honorable James Clyburn
The Honorable Joseph Crowley
The Honorable Mark Kirk
The Honorable Thaddeus McCotter
The Honorable Brad Sherman

ARTSAKH NEWSLETTER

June 2010

Artsakh Newsletter is produced by the Office of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic in the United States covering political and economic developments in Nagorno Karabakh, Artsakh.

POLITICS

On the night of June 18-19, 2010, an Azerbaijani military unit, acting in violation of 1994 cease-fire agreement, crossed the Line of Contact and attacked a forward defense position of the Nagorno Karabakh Defense Army near Chailu, Mardakert district. The resulting skirmish left four Armenian soldiers dead and four wounded; Azerbaijani unit retreated leaving one of their dead at Armenian positions. This brazen action by Azerbaijan came twenty four hours after the high-level Armenia-Azerbaijan summit hosted by Russia's president Medvedev, June 17, and shortly after U.S. efforts to maintain peace and stability in the region, including visit by Secretary of Defense Robert Gates and a letter from President Obama to Azeri President re American vision of a peaceful and stable South Caucasus.

Read more at: http://nkrusa.org/news/daily_news.php?id=1821

Elections to NKR National Assembly on May 23, 2010 were monitored by 124 observers from 16 countries; they assessed the vote to be free and transparent. Read more at: <http://www.nkr.am/en/news/2010-05-25/265/>

A British delegation headed by member of the UK House of Lords, Baroness Caroline Cox arrived in Artsakh. During her 70th visit to NK, Baroness Cox met with NKR Deputy Foreign Minister Vasily Atajanian to discuss the latest regional developments.

By presidential decree, Harutyun Grigorian replaced Gayane Apinyan as Artsakh's Permanent Representative to Germany.

Freedom House, a Washington-based human rights watchdog issued its annual "Freedom in the World" report, which reiterates Artsakh's democratic achievements by assessing it as "partly free". The same report ranked Azerbaijan as "not free" and criticized its authoritarian rule and corruption. Freedom House also noted Azerbaijan's discrimination towards minority groups "in education, employment and housing". Read more at: http://www.freedomhouse.org/inc/content/pubs/fiw/inc_country_detail.cfm?year=2010&country=7775&pf

BUSINESS, ECONOMY & SOCIETY

Rolly Clark, Artsakh Program Manager for the British HALO Trust charity, reported that around 80% of minefields and 70% of affected areas have been cleared and are now available for agricultural purposes. Clark estimated another six years were necessary to complete the mission.

The Archeological Museum of Tigranakert was opened in Artsakh. The museum offers artifacts discovered during excavations of the millennia-old fortress. Head of Artsakh's department for tourism Sergey Shahverdyan expressed hope that Tigranakert will become a major tourist site. More info at: <http://www.tigranakert.am/>

A photographic exhibit opened in Stepanakert. Organized by former Ambassador of Armenia to UK Mr. Vahe Gabrielian, it features images of British architectural and historic heritage, its nature, culture and everyday life.

About the Nagorno Karabakh Republic, Artsakh

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ARTSAKH NEWSLETTER

July 2010

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POLITICS

Presidents of Armenia and Artsakh discussed the recent Azeri attack in northern Karabakh. Serzh Sargsyan and Bako Sahakyan also reviewed military readiness and other security issues. [Read more at: http://www.president.nkr.am/en/news/visits/986/](http://www.president.nkr.am/en/news/visits/986/)

Ashot Ghoulian was re-elected Chairman of Artsakh's newly-elected Parliament. See his bio at: <http://www.nkr.am/en/nkr-national-assembly-chairman/142/>

Members of the French parliament visited Artsakh. The delegation met the republic's president, parliament speaker and representatives of the local civil society.

OSCE Minsk Group co-chairs arrived in Stepanakert to discuss with the republic's leadership the latest developments in negotiations. President Sahakyan reiterated that Azerbaijan's aggressive actions, and absence of proper condemnation by international community undermined regional stability. [Read more at: http://www.president.nkr.am/en/news/meetingsWithForeignDelegations/994/](http://www.president.nkr.am/en/news/meetingsWithForeignDelegations/994/)

U.S. House of Representatives' Foreign Appropriations Subcommittee voted to approve allocation of **\$10 million** for post-war restoration in Artsakh in Fiscal Year 2011. [Read more at: http://asbarez.com/82859/house-panel-approves-44-million-for-armenia-up-to-10-million-for-karabakh/](http://asbarez.com/82859/house-panel-approves-44-million-for-armenia-up-to-10-million-for-karabakh/)

BUSINESS, ECONOMY & SOCIETY

Bridge Artsakh – 2010 economic forum in Stepanakert brought together entrepreneurs from Armenia, Artsakh and the Diaspora to discuss sustainable economic development and new business opportunities.

Masis Tobacco Armenian-Greek joint venture has launched a tobacco processing factory in Askeran. Cultivation and processing of tobacco is expected to create 400 new jobs.

A solemn ceremony marking the laying of the foundation stone of a Russian Orthodox Church of the Intercession of the Holy Virgin took place Stepanakert.

The Civil Society Forum, organized by the Center for International Cooperation, discussed realities and prospects for future development of Artsakh's civil society. Among issues discussed was possible participation in the EU's "Eastern Partnership" program.

Artsakh's non-governmental organizations issued a joint statement addressed to US, French and Russian Presidents, and the OSCE Minsk Group Co-chairs. The statement welcomed international efforts for a peaceful resolution in Karabakh but criticized the so-called "Madrid principles" as "unacceptable" and "destabilizing". [Read more at: http://www.panarmenian.net/eng/world/news/50830/Arstakh_Republic_doesnt_accept_Madrid_Principles](http://www.panarmenian.net/eng/world/news/50830/Arstakh_Republic_doesnt_accept_Madrid_Principles)

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ARTSAKH NEWSLETTER

August, 2010

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POLITICS

Artsakh Foreign Ministry reacted to the ICJ ruling on Kosovo calling it "important legal, political and moral act of universal value, which cannot be limited to Kosovo". Read more at: <http://www.nkr.am/en/news/2010-07-24/283/>

President Bako Sahakian reiterated that Baku's destructive policy was undermining the Nagorno-Karabakh settlement. Meeting with Armenian journalists in Stepanakert, the President characterized Azeri stance as "terrorist". Read more at: <http://www.nkr.am/en/news/2010-07-26/284/>

In light of recent deadly Azeri attacks on the Line of Contact, OSCE mediators called for additional actions to reinforce the ceasefire and demonstrate a spirit of compromise. To assist the parties in their efforts, the Co-Chairs plan to visit the region in early September. Read more at: <http://www.osce.org/item/45538.html>

Appropriations Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives approved \$10 million in FY 2011 for continuation of programs in Nagorno Karabakh. Mine-clearance, medical facility, irrigation and housing remain priority for the Artsakh Government.

BUSINESS, ECONOMY & SOCIETY

The "Hayastan" All-Armenian Fund's Artsakh projects were discussed at a meeting of President Sahakyan with Petros Terzian, the Fund's Board member and liaison in France. The two also visited the Fund's construction sites in Shushi, and expressed satisfaction with quality and timing of the works.

Real estate prices in Stepanakert reached the average of \$650 per sq. meter. NKR State Cadastre Service also reported a 20.3% increase in number of purchase contracts in January – June 2010 comparing to same period in 2009.

Stepanakert Airport, CJSC has been formed under the Artsakh Government's department on civil aviation. Official opening of the airport's new terminal is scheduled for October 2010.

Artsakh Public TV launched a new website that provides videos and text on major daily events in the republic life. English version of the website is under construction. To watch Artsakh TV programs visit <http://www.artsakh.tv/am/home.html>

Artsakh Statistics Service reports 7.5% increase in crediting by commercial banks in the republic since January 2010. Personal bank deposits for the same period have also increased by close to 30%.

International Festival of Classical Music in Stepanakert featured young talents and international prize-winners from Artsakh, Armenia, Belarus, Latvia, Lithuania and Finland. The festival, named 'Tnjre' after a 2000-year-old plane-tree in Martuni region, which symbolizes longevity and strength, also included workshops for young musical talents.

Young Armenians from Diaspora arrived in Artsakh to participate in a summer camp. Called "Knight" ("Asbed" in Armenian), the camp has united Armenians from different states for military sports and other educational programs.

Another event - a scout camp under the motto "The True Path Leads to Homeland" is underway in Shushi. Organized by the "Generation of Hayk" (*Hayki Serund*) Artsakh youth NGO, the camp marks the establishment of a scout movement here.

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ARTSAKH NEWSLETTER

September-October 2010

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POLITICS

NKR Defense Ministry reported **another failed attack** by Azeri saboteurs. President Aliyev appears to ignore international calls for restraint, thus jeopardizing regional security. Read more at: <http://www.news.am/eng/news/29843.html>

OSCE Minsk Group Co-chairs issued a statement urging parties to the conflict to “**respect strictly the cease-fire** and to exercise restraint on the ground”. See statement at: <http://www.osce.org/item/45920.html>

Later President Bako Sahakian met with the Minsk Group Co-chairs in Stepanakert to discuss recent developments. International mediators arrived in Artsakh crossing the Line of Contact with Azeri armed forces – the de-facto border – as an effort to ease recent tensions. Read more at: <http://www.president.nkr.am/en/news/meetingsWithForeignDelegations/1051/>

Members of the U.S. Congressional Armenian Caucus issued a statement that “condemns provocations by the armed forces of Azerbaijan in the strongest terms”. They also **congratulated the anniversary of Artsakh's Independence Day** and pledged continued support for formal recognition of Artsakh's independence. Read more at: http://anca.org/press_releases/press_releases.php?prid=1931

“Present-day Golgotha”, this is how Baroness Caroline Cox, former vice-speaker of UK Parliament's House of Lords, described Azeri atrocities in 1992 in Maragha, Artsakh's Martakert region. Yerevan-based Initiative on Prevention of Xenophobia, an NGO launched a new web resource, which combined text and multimedia evidences of the 1992 massacre of defenseless women and children by Azerbaijani forces.

Azerbaijan withdrew its draft resolution on Artsakh from UN General Assembly's agenda. Apparent lack of support in the international community forced Azerbaijan to abandon the initiative termed “destructive and useless”. Read more at: http://www.armeniaforeignministry.com/pr_10/100910_statement.html

“Aliyev's presidency continues to consolidate authoritarian rule, greater suppression of freedoms and an increased reliance by elites on corruption,” argues the International Crisis Group in its recent report. Full report see at: <http://www.crisisgroup.org/en/publication-type/media-releases/2010/europe/azerbaijan-vulnerable-stability.aspx>

Artsakh President Bako Sahakian received OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs to discuss the forthcoming **Field Assessment Mission** by the organization. President stressed the necessity of a similar mission on Artsakh's territories currently under Azerbaijan's occupation. Read more at: <http://www.president.nkr.am/en/news/meetingsWithForeignDelegations/1069/>

In a statement by NKR Council of nongovernmental organizations **Artsakh NGOs** doubted effectiveness of the assessment mission calling it a “one-sided” effort, in the absence of a similar mission on Azerbaijani side. Read more at: <http://www.armnews.com/view/article/14997/OSCE-Field-Assessment-Mission-is-escalating-tension-in-Karabakh>

Speaker of NKR Parliament Ashot Ghoulian summarized Artsakh delegation's recent working visit to **New York and Washington D.C.** Chairman Ghoulian briefed the journalists in Stepanakert about meetings and discussions the delegation held while in the USA. Read more at: <http://www.nkr.am/en/news/2010-10-07/303/>

French MPs **François Rochebloine, Pascale Crozon** and **René Rouquet** held a press-conference in Paris following their recent visit to Artsakh. Read more at: <http://www.nkr.am/en/news/2010-09-30/300/>

Students at the Armenian Foreign Ministry's **Diplomatic Academy** visited Stepanakert for a series of meetings with the republic's leadership. Read more at: <http://www.president.nkr.am/en/news/workingMeetings/1072/>

International conference titled "**Information Security in the XXI Century and Armenian Journalism**" is taking place in Stepanakert. Organized by Armenia's Ministry of Diaspora, the event brought together media representatives from Artsakh, Armenia and Diaspora.

BUSINESS, ECONOMY & SOCIETY

NKR Government has launched an \$18-million program on complete renovation of **Stepanakert's water-supply system**.

The government also agreed to **allocate \$12.6 million** to cover increases in retirement and other social benefits.

On start of the school year, Artsakh's 230 schools and 5,000 teachers have welcomed more than **20,000 first-graders, double last year's number**.

On the **19th anniversary of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic, Artsakh**, President Sahakyan addressed the nation reaffirming Artsakh's commitment to develop as an independent democracy. See full text at: <http://www.president.nkr.am/en/speeches/addresses/>

A forum of leaders of information and communication technologies took place in Stepanakert. Domestic and foreign IT companies discussed cooperation and development prospects. Read more at: <http://www.president.nkr.am/en/news/workingMeetings/1073/>

Artsakh participated in the International Fair in Marseille, France, by exhibiting crafts and light industry products made in NKR. Artsakh's Permanent Representation in France reports attendance by members of the Armenian community, local authorities and media.

Residents and guests of the capital of Artsakh participated in festivities to mark the Day of Stepanakert on October 9.

Artsakh, a new residential area inaugurated in Stepanakert, will offer contemporary housing and infrastructure to new residents.

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ARTSAKH NEWSLETTER

November, 2010

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POLITICS & SECURITY

Command of the NKR Defense Army conducted large-scale tactical exercises to enhance the competence and skills of its personnel both in defensive and counter-offensive actions. [Read more at: http://www.nkr.am/en/news/2010-11-15/310/](http://www.nkr.am/en/news/2010-11-15/310/)

Bodies of two Azerbaijani soldiers and a Karabakh civilian were exchanged between Artsakh and Azerbaijan with mediation and assistance of the International Committee of the Red Cross. [Read more at: http://www.nkr.am/en/news/2010-11-06/309/](http://www.nkr.am/en/news/2010-11-06/309/)

NKR President Bako Sahakian and Armenia's President Serzh Sargsian met in Moscow with Russian-Armenian philanthropists and entrepreneurs within the frameworks of the "Hayastan" All-Armenian Fund's 2010 Telethon. Public and political figures of Russia and representatives of the Armenian community took part in the meeting. [Read more at: http://www.nkr.am/en/news/2010-11-17/311/](http://www.nkr.am/en/news/2010-11-17/311/)

President Bako Sahakian has visited to the West Coast of the U.S., where he had a number of meetings with representatives of the Armenian-American community and local officials. President also took part in the annual Telethon of the "Hayastan" All-Armenian Fund. [Read more at: http://www.president.nkr.am/en/news/meetingsWithDiaspora/1123/](http://www.president.nkr.am/en/news/meetingsWithDiaspora/1123/)

Hayastan All-Armenian Fund concluded its annual telethon. This year, the funds collected through the 2010 fundraising drive will help provide solutions to the critical issues of clean drinking and irrigation water in the NKR. Artsakh's friends around the world extended their generous support to this effort that helped raise around \$21 million in donations and pledges. [Read more at: http://himnadram.org/index.php?id=23593](http://himnadram.org/index.php?id=23593)

BUSINESS, ECONOMY & SOCIETY

Artsakh took part in the World Travel Market Exhibit (WTM2010) in London. A number of important contacts and agreements were made with major international media in the effort to showcase Artsakh's tourist attractions.

According to the NKR Department of Civil Aviation, the airport in Stepanakert will be put into operation in May 2011 and will promote tourism and economic development in Artsakh.

A medieval **Church of St. Hripsime** has been discovered on the territory of historic settlement of Vararakn (present-day Stepanakert). Situated on the left bank of the Karkar River, St. Hripsime Church is mentioned in the writings of Archbishop Makar Barkhudariants.

As part of **Golden Apricot** Film Festival on Wheels six Armenian and five foreign films will be shown in Stepanakert and Shushi.

Armenian film director Anna Tovmassian presented in Stepanakert a documentary called "**Volunteer**", a story of Dmitry Motrich from Vladivostok, Russia who fought in the war for Artsakh's freedom.

Political scientist Vahram Soghomonian presented in Stepanakert his book "**Solutions for Nagorno Karabakh/Artsakh: self-determination and recognition**". The work that includes articles by German and Armenian experts will be also presented at the European Academy in Berlin.

A public research conducted in Artsakh by Populus UK based company together with the European Friends of Armenia (EuFoA) revealed that the people in NK strongly oppose any measures, which they think cede too much to Azerbaijan. Read more at: <http://www.eufoa.org/en/publications/research>

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PRESS RELEASE
June 2, 2010

ARTSAKH HOLDS PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS
Members of U.S. Congress congratulate NKR on democratic vote

Washington, DC – On May 23, parliamentary elections took place in Nagorno Karabakh Republic, Artsakh. Voters chose from four political party lists and 40 individual candidates competing for 33 seats based on the mixed proportional and majoritarian electoral systems. About 70 percent of eligible voters turned out to elect the fifth parliament of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic.

124 observers from the United States, as well as Argentina, Armenia, Canada, the Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Slovakia, Iran, Ireland, Russia, Abkhazia, South Ossetia and Transdniestria monitored the parliamentary elections in Artsakh.

Observers were unanimous in their assessment that the elections were “free and transparent”, conducted “on a high democratic level”.

A report by an independent American-Dutch Monitoring delegation noted that “Nagorno Karabakh continues to make progress in building democracy, and its authorities have made a serious and concerted effort to conduct the 2010 polls by democratic means. The observations consistently revealed a desire for and commitment to a fair and transparent electoral process.”

The delegation included experts from the Washington-based Public International Law & Policy Group who monitored Karabakh elections in the past.

In a statement, congressional friends of Artsakh reiterated their strong support for democratic processes in NKR as well as its self-determination.

"These elections demonstrate the strength of the democratic process in your republic and reiterate the commitment of the people in Artsakh to the republic's sovereignty. We will continue supporting your efforts to strengthen democracy, to ensure continued development of the region, and to advocate self-determination for Artsakh", reads a joint letter by U.S. Representatives Frank Pallone (D-NJ) and Mark Kirk (R-IL), the Co-Chairmen of the bipartisan Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues that includes 150 members of Congress.

NKR Representative to the United States Robert Avetisyan expressed gratitude to the American Congressmen for their steadfast support of democratic processes in Artsakh.

"On behalf of the people of Artsakh, I thank the Congressmen for supporting our aspirations to build a true democratic and open society, which is a precondition for a strong and prosperous state", said Avetisyan.

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The full report of the Independent American Monitoring Delegation is available at
http://nkrusa.org/news/daily_news.php?id=1781

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PRESS RELEASE
June 19, 2010

ALIYEV ORDERS DEADLY SKIRMISH IN KARABAKH

Clash takes place a day after Armenia-Azerbaijan summit on Karabakh and shortly after President Obama's message to Aliyev emphasizing U.S. interest in peace

WASHINGTON, DC – On the night of June 18-19, 2010, an Azerbaijani military unit, acting in violation of 1994 cease-fire agreement, crossed the Line of Contact and attacked a forward defense position of the Nagorno Karabakh Defense Army near Chailu, Mardakert district. The resulting skirmish left four Armenian soldiers dead and four wounded; Azerbaijani unit retreated leaving one of their dead at Armenian positions.

This act of aggression represents a blatant violation of the cease-fire agreement and other commitments by Azerbaijan – most recently the Moscow Declaration of 2008 – to work towards a peaceful resolution of the conflict.

The attack, ordered by Azerbaijan's leadership twenty four hours after the most recent high-level Armenia-Azerbaijan summit hosted by Russia's president on June 17, represents a challenge not just to Nagorno Karabakh and Armenia, but also the mediating countries – France, Russia and the United States – and all members of the international community interested in regional peace and stability.

This most recent brazen action by Azerbaijan also comes shortly after high-level U.S. efforts to reassure Azerbaijan of continued U.S. interests coming on the back of Azerbaijan's demarches against the U.S. and U.S.-sponsored Armenia-Turkey normalization process. These efforts reportedly include a phone call placed to Aliyev by Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and a visit to Baku by Secretary of Defense Robert Gates earlier this month to deliver a letter from President Obama.

In that letter, President Obama reiterated the American vision of a peaceful and stable South Caucasus, and called upon authorities in Baku to remain adherent to a political resolution of the Karabakh problem.

Disregarding the international approach towards the issue, Azerbaijan launched a brutal terrorist-like attack, which indicates once again that the country remains unwilling to abandon its revanchist aspirations. Moreover, this act jeopardizes OSCE mediators' efforts to find a workable solution to the lasting confrontation.

The Nagorno Karabakh Republic remains committed to a peaceful resolution of the conflict with Azerbaijan. Artsakh's authorities support negotiations under the auspices of the OSCE Minsk Group co-chaired by the United States, Russia and France.

The international community, for its part, is encouraged to resolutely condemn continued provocations by Azerbaijan, and hold its leadership accountable for the escalation of tensions in the region.

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PRESS RELEASE
September 1, 2010

AZERBAIJAN RENEWS KARABAKH PROVOCATIONS

Deadly skirmish may have sought to overshadow Artsakh's Independence Day Sept. 2

WASHINGTON, DC – At dawn on August 31, 2010, an Azerbaijani military unit launched a deadly attack on Artsakh's defense forces near Chailu, Mardakert district.

Artsakh defense forces again forced the trespassers to retreat, with one Karabakh Army serviceman wounded in action. Azeri casualties are believed to number at least seven dead and wounded. Clashes took place two days before the Nagorno Karabakh Republic marks the 19th anniversary of its independence on September 2.

Yesterday's skirmish took place on the same section of the Line of Contact as the June 18, 2010 Azeri provocation, which claimed lives of four Armenian soldiers.

Azerbaijan continues to violate its commitments under the cease-fire agreement that it signed in 1994 while it also undermines international mediation efforts in the Karabakh peace process. Baku's actions contradict its declared adherence to a peaceful resolution of the conflict.

By ordering another act of sabotage just hours after the OSCE field representatives conducted a regular monitoring of the Line of Contact, Azerbaijan once again disregarded the international community's interest in regional peace and stability.

Azerbaijan's leadership openly neglects the international legal and humanitarian norms, as well as its own obligations. Azerbaijani authorities bear the responsibility for the unnecessary loss of life as well as resulting delays in the efforts to achieve a peaceful settlement.

The Nagorno Karabakh Republic has remained committed to a peaceful resolution of the conflict with Azerbaijan. NKR leadership supports negotiations under the auspices of the OSCE Minsk Group, co-chaired by the United States, Russia and France.

At the same time, NKR authorities remain determined to undertake whatever measures necessary to ensure full protection of Artsakh people and sovereignty.

The international community, for its part, is strongly encouraged to condemn Azerbaijan's provocations, and hold its leadership accountable for the continued escalation of tensions in the region. We are convinced that a strong signal to Azerbaijan by all parties concerned would prevent further escalation in bloodshed and promote regional peace.

The Office of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic in the United States is based in Washington, DC and works with the U.S. government, academia and the public representing the official policies and interests of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic.

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PRESS RELEASE
September 2, 2010

KARABAKH CELEBRATES INDEPENDENCE

Members of U.S. Congress Congratulate Artsakh and Pledge Continued Support

Washington, DC - This September 2 the people of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic, Artsakh celebrate the nineteenth anniversary of the republic's independence.

On this day in 1991, in an effort to put an end to decades of discrimination and oppression within Soviet Azerbaijan and re-dress Joseph Stalin's arbitrary decision in 1921, the majority ethnic Armenian people of Nagorno Karabakh proclaimed an independent republic and undertook a lasting commitment to a sovereign and democratic society.

The Declaration, adopted on September 2, 1991 at a joint session of local legislatures - Nagorno Karabakh Regional and Shahumian District Councils of Peoples Deputies, said in part:

"Expressing the popular will, supported by a documented referendum ... striving for freedom, independence, equality and good neighborly relations, ... recognizing Azerbaijan's policies of apartheid and discrimination against [its] Armenian population, ... striving for restoration of good neighborly relations between Armenian and Azerbaijani peoples, ... abiding by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, ... and trusting in the understanding and support of the international community, ... declares [the establishment of] the Nagorno Karabakh Republic".

The totalitarian Soviet system labeled the proclamation "unacceptable" and initiated fresh persecutions, including deportations, detentions and extrajudicial assassinations, against the people of Nagorno Karabakh.

But the absolute public commitment to Artsakh's national liberation movement, along with strong historical and legal bases of independence, allowed the people to persevere both against Soviet persecution and Azerbaijan's military aggression that followed.

Nineteen years after adopting the Declaration, Artsakh remains committed to developing as a free and open society based on universal values.

In his Independence Day message, NKR President Bako Sahakyan said:

"Artsakh people and authorities are steadfast and firm in the realization of national goals and will do everything possible to bring about a bright future for the Artsakh Republic.

"September 2 is also a holiday for our compatriots in Armenia and the Diaspora. Due to their joint efforts the ancient Armenian Artsakh exists and continues flourishing and prospering" the president said adding that "the Motherland will always preserve the memory of its children, who sacrificed their lives in the name of free and independent Artsakh."

Joining the people of NKR on this anniversary Congressmen Frank Pallone, Jr. (D-NJ) and Mark S. Kirk (R-IL), who co-chair a 150-member caucus on Armenian issues in the U.S. Congress, also extended their congratulations to President Sahakyan.

"We are writing to congratulate you and the people of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic, Artsakh on the 19th anniversary of Independence. This historic day represents an important milestone in Artsakh's struggle for freedom".

"On September 2, 1991 the people of Artsakh declared their intention to build a free and democratic state, and have since achieved admirable progress in this mission", says the letter of the Congressmen, pledging continued support for formal recognition of this historical fact.

NKR Representative to U.S. Robert Avetisyan expressed his gratitude to Rep. Kirk and Rep. Pallone for their comprehensive support.

"Since the first day of independence, Artsakh has been demonstrating a firm determination to building a modern and independent society. The Nagorno Karabakh Republic is ready for equitable relations and partnerships with members of the international community, and we are profoundly grateful to the Co-Chairs and all of our American friends for their resolute support of Artsakh's aspirations," said Avetisyan.

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PRESS RELEASE
October 27, 2010

ARMENIAN SOLDIER KILLED BY AZERBAIJANI SNIPER

20-year-old Harut Grigoryan died from sniper fire, hours before Armenian and Azeri Presidents met in Russia to seek ways for easing tension

WASHINGTON, DC – On October 26, 2010, another soldier of the NKR Defense Army was shot dead by Azerbaijan's sniper fire in Artsakh.

Azerbaijan continues to blatantly violate the 1994 cease-fire agreement, the 1995 agreement aimed at resolving tensions on the Line of Contact (LoC) and repeated declarations its leaders made to take constructive steps towards a peaceful resolution of the conflict.

The shooting occurred hours after OSCE field representatives concluded their regular monitoring of the cease-fire regime along the LoC and hours before the Armenian and Azeri Presidents met with Russian president's mediation to discuss steps to ease recent tensions.

Azerbaijan continues to defy the international community's calls for peace. Azerbaijan specifically refused to implement the 2008 OSCE proposal to remove snipers from the LoC.

These actions continue to undermine Azerbaijan's credibility as a trustworthy party in talks for a settlement of the Karabakh conflict.

The NKR reiterates that a direct condemnation of Azerbaijan's provocations by the international community would help prevent further military escalation, and contribute to the mediating efforts under the auspices of the OSCE Minsk Group.

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Presentation by NKR Representative R.Avetisyan at the NYU

July 8, 2010, University of New York

History of the Nagorno Karabakh conflict

First, allow me to thank Professor Mazzucelli for inviting me, and thank you all for being here today. The Nagorno Karabakh conflict with Azerbaijan is one of the most cruel and protracted confrontations in Europe. Although it does not completely fall under the categories of your research – *it is neither an ethnic conflict; and, definitely, not a civil war case* – I hope that my lecture and Q&A session will allow better understanding of the processes in the volatile region of South Caucasus, its history and future prospects.

As a dispute, the problem of Nagorno-Karabakh emerged in 1918, when fall of the Russian Empire raised the necessity to demarcate borders of then newly-independent Armenia and Azerbaijan. Here, I think it worth mentioning that the first-ever Azerbaijani entity was not recognized as a member of the League of Nations – *the antecedent of the United Nations* – for its territorial claims towards neighboring states. And Nagorno Karabakh, or Artsakh, was subjects for one of them.

The indefinite situation with alternate success lasted until late 1920, when Armenia and Azerbaijan were “Sovietized”, and Joseph Stalin pressured to incorporate Nagorno-Karabakh into Soviet Azerbaijan, against the will of local population. To find any kind of a compromise, an autonomous region has been established in 1923 on 40% of Artsakh’s historic territory.

During almost seven decades of Nagorno Karabakh’s existence within Soviet Azerbaijan – a part of the Soviet Union – the authorities in Baku have been regularly violating the rights of Karabakh Armenians, hampering the region’s economic development, and implementing a policy of deportation of Armenians from Nagorno Karabakh, thus transforming the demographic composition of the region in favor of its Azerbaijani minority. These intentions were clearly and openly stated by many Azeri leaders, including Heydar Aliyev - father of the incumbent Azerbaijani life-time president Ilham.

As a result, about three percent of Azerbaijani population in 1923 increased sevenfold to form 21% by 1989. The inflow of Azeris was conducted in parallel with numerous cases of murder, disappearances, illegal arrests and tortures of local Armenians.

We resisted such treatment, and have repeatedly raised this problem with the central Soviet authorities. However, the Soviet system did not tolerate any kind of complaints regarding the System.

Thus, discrimination and the infringement on the fundamental rights of Armenians, Russians, Jews, Greeks, Kurds and other nations living in Nagorno Karabakh for centuries continued to become the main cause of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

Formation of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic

A new stage of the Karabakh liberation movement began during Gorbachev's Perestroika and decolonization era, which led to the creation of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic.

On September 2, 1991, shortly after Azerbaijan announced «restoration of its independent republic of 1918», which, as you know did not include Nagorno Karabakh, the Karabakh legislature adopted a similar declaration proclaiming the Nagorno Karabakh Republic. Our actions were in compliance with the Soviet Law of April 1990 on «the Procedure of the Solution of Issues Related to Secession of the Union Republic from the USSR». The law provided autonomous entities with the right to decide independently their political and legal status through legally-binding expression of will, in case if a Soviet Republic declares withdrawal from the USSR.

Thus, formation of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic was sealed by the December 10, 1991 nation-wide referendum, in full compliance with international law and then acting legislation. Almost 98.99% of voters supported independence of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic. The Azeri minority also could enjoy their voting right. Yet, after corresponding signals from Baku, Azerbaijanis in Karabakh boycotted the referendum, which, in any way, could not affect the final results of the vote.

Therefore, as a result of Soviet Union's disintegration, two states — the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Nagorno Karabakh Republic — were established on the territory of the former Soviet Azerbaijan. Both were established *de facto* and *de jure*.

War of 1991-1994

However, from the very first day of this problem, Azeri authorities appeared to be unwilling and not ready to deal with the issue in a civilized manner.

Azerbaijan responded to Nagorno-Karabakh's peaceful and constitutional appeal with the unprecedented massacre of Armenians in Sumgait, hundreds of miles away from Nagorno Karabakh. In 1988, when Karabakh legislature petitioned the Soviet leadership to restore the historical justice and reconsider its status within the USSR, a wave of anti-Armenian pogroms took place in major cities in Azerbaijan, claiming dozens of innocent lives and escalating the peaceful manifestations into a military confrontation, as well as creating the first flow refugees in then Soviet area.

Subsequently, unwilling to accept the constitutional formation of a new independent republic, Azerbaijan launched a full-scale war. The war, which killed and maimed dozens of thousands lives, and devastated the whole economic and social infrastructure in Karabakh.

By 1992, 70% of the republic's territory was occupied by Azeri army, and thousands of mercenaries from Afghanistan, Chechnya, Tajikistan, Russia and Ukraine.

Yet, through perseverance and enormous sacrifice, my people succeeded in defending the right to live in freedom, under government of own choosing. Despite the fact that 15% of Artsakh's territory remain under occupation, we managed to ensure a relative peace and security for the rest of the republic.

The cease-fire agreement signed between Azerbaijan, Nagorno-Karabakh and Armenia in May, 1994, remains in force to this day. Since then, we embarked on the difficult task to rebuilding what was left of our country, and have registered a substantial progress in state-building, as well as in a comprehensive development.

Negotiation efforts

Currently, the conflict is mediated by the OSCE Minsk Group. There are three states – permanent co-chairs to the Group: USA, Russia and France. The mediators work to provide an appropriate frame-work for settlement of the conflict, and regularly visit the region to consult with leadership of Armenia, Nagorno Karabakh and Azerbaijan over the progress in the negotiations and remaining challenges.

Regular meetings also take place between Armenian and Azerbaijani Presidents and Foreign Ministers. Unfortunately, this process remains the only of a kind, which lacks direct negotiations between the immediate conflicting sides – Karabakh and Azerbaijan. The issue is that, since 1998, Azeris have been trying to present the freedom and self-determination movement as a territorial dispute between Armenia and Azerbaijan, i.e. to show Armenia as an “aggressor” in the eyes of international community.

However, just a week ago we had another visit by the Minsk Group co-chairs, who met in Stepanakert with the republic's President Bako Sahakyan and reiterated that resumption of the true and only workable negotiation format with direct participation of the republic's authorities was a matter of time.

The OSCE has established representations in the three capitals. Among the responsibilities is regular monitoring of the contact-line between Karabakh and Azerbaijani armed forces, for preventing escalation and resumption of hostilities and timely reporting of any incident along the frontline. However, the everyday skirmishes and a so-called “sniper war” evidence that the parties and mediators should consider more effective mechanisms for maintaining relative peace and stability.

Here we come to another idea, suggested by the NKR authorities and flatly rejected by our neighbors: Having in mind that any durable solution to any conflict requires confidence between the parties, since November 2001, my government has been putting forward a package of confidence-building measures between the two peoples. The measures, which would not imply any political component; Measures, able to ease and improve the daily life of people on both sides of the contact-line: such as refraining from warmongering, cooperation between the agencies on prisoners of war; pure humanitarian projects like joint usage of water resources, fight with rodents and other pests on agricultural lands, preventing of inflammation on fields etc.

Our position is that confidence-building is crucial, and should not be conditioned by or linked with any political process. And we still hope that one day the Azeri authorities will abandon the anti-Armenian ... revanchist sentiments; understand the irreversibility of the realities we all witness today and mutual benefit we can derive from it. Of course, the sooner - the better; better for ordinary people living in our states; better for our economies, including regional projects.

Current situation in the NKR

Since the day of establishment, the Nagorno Karabakh Republic proclaimed its objectives, which today remain mostly the same and very simple – to build a stable, open and democratic society; a state, which can protect its population, and provide them with the rights and freedoms everyone deserves. Our republic has sustainable political institutions; our authorities are democratically-elected; we have a multi-party political field with active nongovernmental sector. In 2006, we adopted the republic's Constitution, which consolidated all basic principles of the sovereignty, and symbolized a new stage in our development.

The most recent parliamentary elections in Artsakh, assessed by dozens of international observers as more

free and transparent that those in many nations worldwide, served as another evidence, that my people did not fail the test of independence. In general, Azerbaijan's and Artsakh's political evolution differ fundamentally. Defined by free and fair elections and a tradition of postelectoral consensual coexistence of government and opposition, Nagorno Karabakh's political system is irreversibly incompatible with that of Azerbaijan. And this is one of the many reasons why any attempts to propose a common political future for these two countries are doomed to fail.

There are modern political terms, such as "minimal" and "democratic" stability. The first... simply refers to the absence of civil war or other domestic disturbances. Such stability can be achieved by authoritarian methods. "Democratic" stability applies to the ability of democratic structures to react quickly to public mood. It supposes stability as a function of democracy, and implies participation of citizens in government, through institutions that serve a society. Unlike our neighbor to the east, we, and not only, see our stability as "democratic".

Effective administration and almost complete eradication of corruption allowed significant achievements in Karabakh's economic development as well. Attractive investment policy and flexible taxation resulted in multimillion foreign investments and sustainable "double-digit" growth. Mining, telecommunications, construction, food processing and cattle-breeding are the largest spheres of the republic's economy. Traditionally agricultural, Nagorno Karabakh is exploring new possibilities for a multifaceted development, including energetic sphere, IT, diamond processing and so on.

NKR and stability in Southern Caucasus

Speaking about the regional stability, it is clear that ethno-political conflicts, dissemination of aggressive nationalism, and poorly-developed civil society are among the destabilizing factors in the South Caucasus, just like elsewhere around the globe.

Despite the cease-fire reached in 1994 and resolutions of the UN Security Council, Baku continues its transport and energy blockade towards Armenia and Nagorno Karabakh. Unfortunately, Azeris turn down any Armenian initiative on regional cooperation; try to prevent international participation in Karabakh's development; refuse to separate political, economic and humanitarian issues. All this, undoubtedly, undermines a fragile regional stability. However, we do our best not to follow Azeri provocations, and patiently try to break the ice between our peoples.

By the way, Azerbaijan is often referring to the UN resolutions, as demanding from Armenians to withdraw from several regions, thus exposing its population to another threat of physical annihilation. Yet, Azeris fail to mention that the documents were adopted in 1993 to appeal the Azeri side for cessation of its military and other types of aggression towards NK. Unfortunately, Azerbaijan continued its offensives and revanchist attempts, which further aggravated the situation and led to severe losses from both sides.

Elimination of war consequences is very important. But, more important is to deal with the problem's root cause, keeping in mind that any rash and untimely step can bring to resumed and heavier hostilities.

The problem of refugees represents one of the conflict's sad consequences. As a result of pogroms, killing and deportation in Sumgayit, Baku, Shemakha and other Azerbaijani cities, over 400 thousand Armenians were forced out, losing their possessions and real estate. A few years ago, almost a third of population in Artsakh were refugees or IDPs. However, the Armenian refugees have more or less successfully assimilated into our society; we did not create any camps, or artificial settlements for refugees;... they became our citizens and

remain protected by the republic's Constitution. We realize the necessity of solving this issue. At the same time, we remind that the problem of refugees, is reciprocal, and requires a balanced and comprehensive approach.

Peace between Nagorno Karabakh and Azerbaijan is crucial for the long-term stability and security in the South Caucasus. This is a goal that corresponds to the interests of the whole international community, including that of the United States, Armenia and Nagorno Karabakh. We have repeatedly stated our support for peaceful negotiations with Azerbaijan under the aegis of the OSCE Minsk Group, and we remain adherent to a constructive involvement with the international mediators for reaching our shared vision of a stable region.

Our republic has become an inseparable part of the regional security system. The NKR has all the attributes of statehood: an effective control of its borders; an ethnic group representing its population; sustainable domestic and foreign policy; and effective armed forces.

The NKR Army of Defense, which is under the full control of the civil authorities, remains the essential guarantor of our security. One of the peculiarities of the conflict is maintenance of the cease-fire regime without any international military involvement. The armistice is based only on the military balance of powers. And fortified line of contact between Artsakh and Azeri armed forces represents a significant component of that balance, since, considering the military capabilities accumulated by the conflicting sides since 1994, it is plausible that renewed hostilities will have grave consequences for the entire Caucasus and beyond. The recent incident, when Azeri Special Forces attempted to penetrate into our territory, reiterates the necessity of a workable mechanism to prevent another war. We still hope that Azerbaijan will abandon its revanchist aspirations and accept the reality, which will be of benefit first of all for us - Armenians and Azerbaijanis; save lives of our servicemen; allow peaceful neighborhood with constructive and profitable regional cooperation...

The idea that "the world doesn't need more states", expressed by different experts, is erroneous since there are numerous cases of new state formation after the WWII and post-Soviet era, which undoubtedly shaped a better political map, making the world a safer place.

Besides, the recent trends in the international community support forfeit of a state's authority over a certain territory (often without its consent), if any government fails to implement effective administration basing on democracy, respect of human rights, peace and stability. These principles have, in fact, become new paradigm in the international law. Look at Kosovo, East Timor, Montenegro and so on. A complex of legally acceptable measures frame a way to state independence for Eritrea, Quebec, Farer Islands, Gibraltar, Western Sahara, New Caledonia, Southern Sudan and elsewhere.

And this is very much true about the Nagorno Karabakh. First, we have conducted a referendum in compliance with the international law. And the second, under any government, Azerbaijani policy towards Karabakh clearly indicated impossibility of Nagorno Karabakh's coexistence with Azerbaijan.

The NKR has come about as a state, and many in the world recognize this. Recognition of our independence neither violates territorial integrity of Azerbaijan nor threatens its existence. The principle of territorial integrity can not be implied to Azerbaijan by different international legal reasons. The most important – Nagorno Karabakh has never been a part of independent Azerbaijan, and withdrew from a **Soviet** republic in compliance with **Soviet** legislation; the same legislation, which provided independence also for Azerbaijan, Armenia and the rest of former Soviet republics.

As I said, we can be good neighbors, but we will never peacefully coexist in a common political-administrative entity.

The role of international community

If we touch upon the role of international community in this conflict, we can say that has always been significant. To mention one fact: the international community unilaterally recognized the results of the referendum on independence held in Azerbaijan in 1991, but it refused to recognize the results of a similar vote in NKR, thus instigating Azerbaijan's claims to Nagorno-Karabakh, and providing grounds for the escalation of conflict. The conflict is very vulnerable and sensitive to a statement or an article in an influential newspaper.

Unfortunately, the anti-Armenian campaign has been raised to a level of state policy in Azerbaijan. Our position is that everyday militaristic statements and threats should not be disregarded or underestimated by the international community. In this situation, it is difficult to imagine any solution that could bring the most-cherished peace.

The negotiation process must be backed up by a commitment on the part of all three states to confidence – building measures. Bellicose rhetoric should be abandoned; and our societies should start preparing for reconciliation as official talks continue. Only genuine reconciliation -- achieved through official contacts, confidence building measures and elements of second-track diplomacy – can yield a stable peace.

The international community, for its part, should support this approach.

The Karabakh dispute is very complicated and difficult to solve, but the people of Nagorno Karabakh remain optimistic. We believe that reverting to the original negotiation format, with Artsakh's full participation, will restore the lacking balance and provide Azerbaijan with tangible incentives to act constructively. That would also credibly demonstrate Azerbaijan's readiness to co-exist peacefully with Nagorno-Karabakh, regardless of the outcome of the negotiations.

Many nations succeeded in real self-determination and creation of states. In most cases it required bloody wars and political struggle. Most of newly-independent states, even those without international recognition, proved their ability to build an open and democratic society with viable political system and efficient armed forces to protect their existence.

Civilized, just and comprehensive Karabakh settlement will only promote the stability in South Caucasus and prevent new hostilities. And, on the contrary, any attempts to bring democratic Karabakh under Azerbaijani sultanate will threaten the whole region, its existing infrastructure and sustainable development of the nations concerned.

We remain adherent to finding a peaceful and durable solution to our conflict with Azerbaijan, and have repeatedly proved that the Nagorno Karabakh republic is a trustful partner during the negotiations; and, in a wider perspective, we have deserved our place among the international family of democratic nations.